

# Inference vs. Observation

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# What is an observation?

- \* When you observe, you become aware of something using one of your senses.
- \* Your five senses are smell, taste, sight, touch, and sound. In an observation you simply describe something as it appears. An observation is a statement describing a fact.

# Qualitative Observation

- \* Sometimes scientists must make very careful observations.
- \* Often their senses are not good enough. There are some things that cannot be observed using just your senses so scientists have developed tools to help. (microscopes, telescopes, ect.)

# What is an inference?

- \* When you infer, you make a mental judgment based on observations.
- \* Inferences cannot be directly observed. They require thought.
- \* For example, if you get up in the morning and observe puddles on the ground, you might infer that it has recently rained.
- \* An inference is a statement based on your interpretation of the facts.

# Examples

Observation	Inference
The plant is extremely wilted	The plant is wilted due to lack of water
The car stopped running	The car stopped running because it ran out of gas
The Habs are leading in their division	The Habs are leading because Price is the best goalie of all time

# Test your skills of observation

- \* Would you make a good eyewitness?
- \* Are you able to observe just facts and not get distracted?
- \* Test: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJG698U2Mvo>